

12. (New) A recombinant fusion polypeptide, comprising:

(a) an immunogenic portion wherein the immunogenic portion comprises at least two immunogenic peptides, the peptides comprising at least 10 amino acids and capable of eliciting an immune response against Group A Streptococci; and

(b) a C-terminal peptide which protects the immunogenicity of the immunogenic portion, wherein the C-terminal peptide is in addition to the immunogenic portion and is not required to stimulate an immune response against Group A Streptococci.

13. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 12 wherein the C-terminal peptide is a reiteration of at least one of the immunogenic peptides.

14. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 12 wherein the C-terminal peptide is a peptide from another pathogen.

15. (New) The polypeptide according to any one of claims 12-14 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a Group A Streptococci serotype selected from the group consisting of 1, 1.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 30, 48, 49, 52 and 56.

16. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 15 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

17. (New) The polypeptide according to any one of claims 12-14 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 1 Group A Streptococci.

18. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 17 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

19. (New) The polypeptide according to any one of claims 12-14 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 4 Group A Streptococci.

3 20. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

Sub E13 > 3 21. (New) The polypeptide according to any one of claims 12-14 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 5 Group A Streptococci.

3 22. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 21 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

Sub E14 > 3 23. (New) The polypeptide according to any one of claims 12-14 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 6 Group A Streptococci.

3 24. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 23 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

3 25. (New) The polypeptide according to any one of claims 12-14 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 12 Group A Streptococci.

3 26. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 25 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

Sub E15 > ✓ 27. (New) A composition for promoting an immune response against Group A Streptococci, comprising:

(a) a recombinant fusion polypeptide, comprising:

(i) an immunogenic portion wherein the immunogenic portion comprises at least two immunogenic peptides, the peptides comprising at least 10 amino acids and capable of eliciting an immune response against Group A Streptococci; and

Sub E15/ (ii) a C-terminal peptide which protects the immunogenicity of the immunogenic portion, wherein the C-terminal peptide is in addition to the immunogenic portion and is not required to stimulate an immune response against Group A Streptococci; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent.

28. (New) The composition according to claim 27 wherein the C-terminal peptide is a reiteration of at least one of the immunogenic peptides.

29. (New) The composition according to claim 27 wherein the C-terminal peptide is a peptide from another pathogen.

Sub E16/ 3 30. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29, further comprising an adjuvant.

Sub I3/ 3 31. (New) The composition according to claim 30 wherein the adjuvant is alum or Freund's-adjuvant.

Sub E17/ 3 32. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29, further comprising an immunomodulatory cofactor.

3 33. (New) The composition according to claim 30, further comprising an immunomodulatory cofactor.

Sub I3/ 3 34. (New) The composition according to claim 32 wherein the immunomodulatory cofactor is selected from the group consisting of IL-4, IL-10, γ -IFN, IL-2, IL-12, and IL-15.

3 35. (New) The composition according to claim 33 wherein the immunomodulatory cofactor is selected from the group consisting of IL-4, IL-10, γ -IFN, IL-2, IL-12, and IL-15.

3 36. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a Group A Streptococci serotype selected from the group consisting of 1, 1.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 30, 48, 49, 52 and 56.

Sub E(18) 3 37. (New) The composition according to claim 36 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

3 38. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 1 Group A Streptococci.

3 39. (New) The composition according to claim 38 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

Sub E(19) 3 40. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 4 Group A Streptococci.

3 41. (New) The composition according to claim 40 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

Sub E(20) 3 42. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 5 Group A Streptococci.

3 43. (New) The composition according to claim 42 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

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44. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 6 Group A Streptococci.

45. (New) The composition according to claim 44 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

46. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein at least one of the immunogenic peptides is from a serotype 12 Group A Streptococci.

47. (New) The composition according to claim 46 wherein the immunogenic portion comprises six immunogenic peptides.

48. (New) A method for vaccinating a host against Group A Streptococci infections, comprising administering a composition according to any one of claims 27-29.

49. (New) The method according to claim 48 wherein administering the composition elicits opsonic antibodies.

50. (New) The method according to claim 48 wherein the opsonic antibodies do not cross-react with host tissue.

51. (New) A method for vaccinating a host against Group A Streptococci infections, comprising administering a composition according to claim 30.

52. (New) A method for vaccinating a host against Group A Streptococci infections, comprising administering a composition according to claim 33.

53. (New) A method for vaccinating a host against Group A Streptococci infections, comprising administering a composition according to claim 37.